

Rusty had been studying for three weeks to take a test that would change his life. It was the test for his learner's permit to drive a car. The driver education teacher had passed out books on the rules of the highway, and Rusty had driven his grandfather's pickup truck many times in the parking lot near his home on Sunday mornings when the lot was empty.

The test was written and Rusty did not have to drive. He would have to drive with a state trooper next year when he turned sixteen years old. He took the test and the examiner said that he had scored an eighty-five, a good score. Rusty bounded out onto the parking lot where his mother was waiting for him.

"Hey, Mom, I mad an eighty-five on my test and the said I was so smart that you and Pops should buy me a sports car right away!" said Rusty. His mother laughed out loud and said, "Get in this car, boy, and drive your tiered, hardworking mother home. Don't give me any tales of buying you a sports car!"

Rusty drove home in the busy downtown traffic. When they got home, Rusty told Pops about the high score he had made, and Mom bragged on his driving skills while Pops beamed with pride.

Rusty soon became the top driver of the family, but the law required that either parent ride with him until he turned the age sixteen. Rusty, however, became overconfident. One evening, after his parents had gone to bed, he took the car out by himself. He had not gone three blocks when he slammed into the back of a station wagon while singing his favorite rap song. He jumped out of the car to make sure no one was injured, and, seeing that the other driver was OK, he examined the cars. Both cars had large dents and scratches, much to the dismay of Rusty.

A policeman came to fill out a report and had to call Rusty's parents, who rushed to the accident. "I am so glad you were not hurt," said Pops, "but I am very disappointed in you for taking the car without our permission!" Rusty felt bad. He promised to pay for the damage to both cars. "I'm so sorry I let you and Mom down, and I promise I will make it up to you Dad," said Rusty when his father hugged him.

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